

TCNJ Hazing Prevention Policy

It is the purpose of The College of New Jersey to provide a campus environment that encourages academic accomplishment, personal growth, and a spirit of understanding and cooperation. An important part of maintaining such an environment is the commitment to protect the health and safety of every member of the campus community.

Hazing in any form is prohibited at The College of New Jersey. TCNJ is committed to providing a safe learning environment that supports the dignity of all College community members. Hazing is a violation of state law and is strictly prohibited by TCNJ both on and off campus. **Violation of this policy may result in both disciplinary action and criminal charges.**

Students who are members of or are interested in becoming members of fraternities or sororities at TCNJ are required to read and agree to abide by the The College of New Jersey's Hazing Policy. Hazing includes organization, engaging in, facilitating, or promoting any conduct that places or may place another person in danger of bodily injury (the consent of those hazed will not be accepted as a defense).

The College of New Jersey defines hazing as:

- i. Any action taken, or situation created that negligently, intentionally, or recklessly subjects any person to the risk of bodily harm, physical discomfort, harassment, emotional or mental degradation, abuse, or interferes with academic activities; or causes or encourages any person to commit an act that would be a violation of law or College regulations for the purpose of initiating, promoting, fostering, or confirming any form of affiliation with a student group or organization.
- ii. No Recognized Student Organization, student, or alumnus shall conduct or condone Hazing activities.
 - A. Any observation of a Recognized Student Organization of any Hazing activity must be reported immediately (within 24 hours) to College Officials, which may include professional staff in the Office of Student Life, the Office of Student Conduct and/or the Dean of Students Office.
- iii. Aiding or assisting another to engage in any Hazing activity.
- iv. The expressed or implied consent of a person is not a defense to any Hazing activity.

*This provision applies to all students regardless of College or Student Government recognition of the student group or organization.

New Jersey State Law: Timothy J. Piazza's Law (enacted in August 2021)

§ 2C:40-3 Hazing.

1.

- a. A person is guilty of hazing, if, in connection with initiation of applicants to or members of a student or fraternal organization, whose membership is primarily students or alumni of the organization or an institution of higher education, the person knowingly or recklessly:
 - (1) causes, coerces, or otherwise induces another person to commit an act that violates federal or State criminal law;
 - (2) causes, coerces, or otherwise induces another person to consume any food, liquid, alcoholic liquid, drug or other substance which subjects the person to a risk of emotional or physical harm or is otherwise deleterious to the person's health;
 - (3) subjects another person to abuse, mistreatment, harassment, or degradation of a physical nature, including, but not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, excessive calisthenics, or exposure to the elements;
 - (4) subjects another person to abuse, mistreatment, harassment, or degradation of a mental or emotional nature, including, but not limited to, activity adversely affecting the mental or emotional health or dignity of the individual, sleep deprivation, exclusion from social contact, or conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment;
 - (5) subjects another person to abuse, mistreatment, or degradation of a sexual nature; or
 - (6) subjects another person to any other activity that creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to the person.

Hazing shall not include any reasonable and customary athletic, law enforcement, or military training; contests; competitions; or events.

- b. Hazing is a crime of the third degree if an actor commits an act prohibited in subsection a. of this section which results in death or serious bodily injury to another person and is a crime of the fourth degree if the actor commits an act prohibited in subsection a. of this section which results in bodily injury to another person. Otherwise, hazing is a disorderly persons offense.
- c. c. In addition to any other sanctions or penalties that may be imposed, a student or fraternal organization described in subsection a. of this section, or an institution of higher education, that knowingly or recklessly promotes or facilitates a person to commit an act of hazing prohibited in this section shall be subject to a fine of not

less than \$1,000 or more than \$5,000 for an initial violation of subsection a. of this section, and a fine of not less than \$5,000 or more than \$15,000 for each subsequent fine.

d.

1. A person, student or fraternal organization, or institution of higher education, and another person acting in concert with the person, organization, or institution, shall be immune from prosecution under this section if the person, or an employee, officer, or other agent acting on behalf of the organization or institution, as the case may be:
 - a. Called 9-1-1, or otherwise contacted campus security, police, or emergency services, and reported that a person was in need of medical assistance due to an act of hazing as described in this section;
 - b. The caller provided the caller's name and, if applicable, the name of the person acting in concert with the caller to the 9-1-1 operator or other recipient of the emergency contact;
 - c. The caller was the first to make the 9-1-1 report or other emergency report; and
 - d. The caller and, if applicable, the person acting in concert with the caller remained on the scene with the person in need of medical assistance until assistance arrived and cooperated with the emergency services on the scene.
2. In addition to any other applicable immunity or limitation on civil liability, a law enforcement officer or other official empowered to act as an officer for the arrest of offenders against the laws of this State, or a prosecutor, who, acting in good faith, arrested or charged a person who is thereafter determined to be entitled to immunity from prosecution under this subsection shall not be subject to any civil liability for the wrongful arrest or charge.

The **Stop Campus Hazing Act** (SCHA) amends the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require colleges and universities to disclose hazing incidents in their annual security reports. It mandates institutions to define hazing, compile statistics on reported cases, and establish transparent policies for reporting and prevention.

The Act defines the term **‘hazing’**, for purposes of reporting statistics on hazing incidents, as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person (whether individually or in concert with other persons) against another person or persons regardless of the willingness of such other person or persons to participate, that -

- (I) is committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in, a student organization; and
- (II) causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization (such as the physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletic team), of physical or psychological injury including -
 - (aa) whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on someone’s body, or similar activity;
 - (bb) causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or other similar activity;
 - (cc) causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances;
 - (dd) causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to perform sexual acts;
 - (ee) any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct;
 - (ff) any activity against another person that includes a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal Law; and
 - (gg) any activity that induces, causes, or requires another person to perform a duty or task that involves a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law.

The Act defines the term **‘student organization’**, for purposes of reporting statistics on hazing incidents, as an organization at an institution of higher education (such as a club, society, association, varsity or junior varsity athletic team, clubs sports team, fraternity, sorority, band, or student government) in which two or more of the members are students enrolled at the institution of higher education, whether or not the organization is established or recognized by the institution.

How to Report a Hazing Incident/Violation

All members of the College community are strongly encouraged to report suspected instances of hazing to:

- Office of Student Life
 - studentlife@tcnj.edu
 - 609-771-2466
 - BSC 209
- Director of Student Life
 - Dave Conner
 - conner@tcnj.edu
 - 609-771-3125
 - BSC 209
- Assistant Director of Student Life
 - Aimee Wardle
 - wardlea@tcnj.edu
 - 609-771-2473
 - BSC 208-A
- Dean of Students Office
 - 609-771-2780
 - BSC 220
- Campus Police
 - 609-771-2345

You can go the following website to fill out a Hazing Report:

https://tcnj-advocate.symplicity.com/public_report/index.php/pid251239?

You can also report to any TCNJ faculty or staff member.

Hazing Prevention Programming

The College of New Jersey requires and/or provides hazing prevention information or trainings in the following areas:

Office of Student Life

- Fraternity and Sorority Life
 - Presentations to all new members when joining a fraternity or sorority
 - Presentations to all chapter presidents and new member education teams before recruitment/intake activities start
 - Included in the Plaid Tightrope modules that all new members complete when joining their organization
- Sport Clubs
 - Team leadership training at start of academic year
- Recognized Student Organization (RSO) Online Resource Course
 - A course that all organization presidents are required to complete, and all organization leaders have access to

Athletics

- Annual review with every student athlete
- Incorporated in the annual compliance reporting

Campus Police

- Offers Situational Awareness trainings upon request